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EXCISE

ACTION ARA-15

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-14 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CONFIDENTIAL MONTEVIDEO 4105

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PROP, UY

SUBJ: GCU DECLARES DECEMBER HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

1. LEGAL UNCLASSIFIED. IN AN ELABORATE CEREMONY INVOLVING THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, COUNCIL OF STATE AND PRESIDENT MENDEZ, THE GOV ON NOVEMBER 24 DREW UP, APPROVED AND PROMULGATED LEGISLATION DECLARING DECEMBER THE "MONTH OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS". IN ITS PREAMBLE, THE LAW RECOGNIZES THE 1948 UN DECLARATION AS "THE FIRST STEP TOWARD FORMULATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER WHICH WOULD HAVE JURIDICAL AND MORAL FORCE". IT ALSO SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZES THAT "HUMAN RIGHTS ARE A NATURAL ATTRIBUTE OF MAN, INDEPENDENT OF WRITTEN LAW", HUMAN RIGHTS ARE A "NECESSARY ELEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS". THE COMMEMORATION WILL HAVE "ESPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE" FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH SINCE ALL OF URUGUAY'S HISTORY HAS BEEN CONSECRATED TO THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS--INCLUDING THE PRESENT PERIOD OF "REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS". AMPLIFYING THE LATTER POINT THE LEGISLATION CITES INSTITUTIONAL ACT NO. 5, WHICH SETS FORTH

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THE GOV'S OFFICIAL POSITION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE "A FINATION OF INTERNAL SECURITY" UNDER THE "COMPLETE TUTELAGE OF THE STATE".

END UNCLASSIFIED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY L. M. [signature] DATE 9/78
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED